

TRUTH

when I came here to live, I thought it must be a great book or Dr. Paden would not have spent three weeks' time and preached three sermons on the third book of Nephi and to please Dr. Paden I read the third book of Nephi, and wishing to hear both sides of the question I went to Ogden and heard the Hon. B. H. Roberts answer Dr. Paden. Now Mr. Helmick has invited everyone to read the entire book of Mormon. If it is of so much importance that a clergyman will neglect his duty to write a book on it it certainly must be profitable for a common layman to read it.

I have tried to point out to the preachers of Utah in some of my previous writings that writing pamphlets, preaching sermons, delivering lectures, being ante-religious kickers on the street corners. Howling for Tom Kearns, Frank Cannon, Charley Owen, and the American party of knockers, passing resolutions at the Ministerial association, and religious conventions, never converted a sinner; never healed a wounded heart, never wiped away a tear, never lifted a man out of the gutter and never made a man, woman, or child better. But on the contrary, the work of the Ministerial association and its individual members has been so false, so gross, so debasing and so slanderous that the people in Utah have so little confidence in them that their good works (if they have done any) have been a complete failure. Dr. T. C. Cliff well stated in his lecture in Wilkes Barre, Pa., that in the last forty years the preachers in Utah had spent over \$4,000,000 and had only made a handful of converts and Bishop Fowler of the Methodist church, knowing the situation, said that most of the preachers sent to Utah were of 2x4 size.

Yours very truly,

V. S. PEET.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 5th, 1906.

WOMEN TO FILL THE THINNING CLERICAL RANKS.

Shall we have a ministry recruited by ordained women? Is a question put by a writer of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, in viewing with dismay the present waning supply of men. The writer, Rev. Daniel Steele D. D., contemplates the statement made by Dr. W. N. Rice, in The Alumni Record, of Wesleyan University, that among the alumni "between 1872 and 1905, the gain in the number of physicians was 87 per cent., in the number of lawyers 44 per cent., of business men 154 per cent., while the gain in the number of ministers was only 4 per cent." In addition he quotes the report of the secretary of the Methodist Educational Fund to the effect that, while in 1899 there were 1,113 students assisted from the fund in paying their expenses for education, the number in 1904 was decreased to 826. Seventy-five years ago, remarks Dr. Steele, in The Christian Advocate (New York), "Methodism, having no colleges nor universities nor theological seminaries and only a few academies, drew her ministerial supply almost entirely from the plow and the shop. But since the wide diffusion of education among the laity she can not continue to do this." No hope of recruits from the Salvation Army, "the offspring of Methodism," can be entertained, says the writer, since "as a whole the Army lacks that literary and theological training requisite for success in our ministry. Moreover, it seems at present to be affected by the same chill that has struck us with this difference, they are slipping down from evangel-

ism to philanthropy, from salvation of the souls of the poor to the betterment of their physical condition, while we are sinking down into satisfied worldliness."

One "ray of light," declares Dr. Steele, "illuminates the gloomy prospect." It is this:

"Our bishops may be authorized by the General Conference to do at home, as they do in our Asiatic missions, appoint women as well as men to their various fields of Christian labor. Multiply the number of deaconesses and enlarge their sphere to include preaching and pastoral care and the administration of the sacraments 'in the absence of an elder,' and you instantly more than double the ministerial supply. For there are in our church two women to one man, a Mary and a Martha to every Lazarus, if our statistics correspond with those of the Congregationalists, who report the sex of their members, as we fail to do. Perhaps divine Providence is making preparation for the incoming of these auxiliary forces into the battle-field just in time to gain the victory. For never in the history of the world were the doors of universities opened to women as they are to-day, when throngs of them, eagerly culturing their brains while their brothers are strengthening their brawn, are capturing most of the scholastic prizes. Dr. Harris, the former United States Commissioner of Education, predicts that in less than twenty years the learned classes taking the lead in literature, science, art, and economics in America will be women. It was a woman's pen that prepared 'the boys in blue' to fight bravely against slavery. Said President Lincoln when Mrs. Stowe was introduced to him, taking her hand in both of his, 'Is this the little woman who made this big war?' The national demand for the investigation of the stupendous monopoly of the Standard Oil Company, as voiced by President Roosevelt, was inspired by a woman magazine-writer. Within a year or two there has been placed in the rotunda of our national Capitol the marble statue of a Methodist woman, the most widely known and best beloved reformer in the world. These are indications of the glorious possibilities of Christian woman in the future of Christ's kingdom. They may come to the intellectual 'kingdom for such a time as this,' or rather for that time which will soon come, if our waning ministerial supply continues a few quadrenniums longer."—Literary Digest.

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